

Message Text

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SUBJ: FOOD SUPPLIES IRKUTSK AND ULAN-UDE

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. EMBOFFS VISITED IRKUTSK AND ULAN-UDE 10-14 JANUARY AND CHECKED STATE STORES AND MARKETS FOR AVAILABILITY AND COST OF SELECTED FOOD ITEMS. IN NEITHER CITY WAS MUTTON AVAILABLE. BEEF WAS ONLY SPORADICALLY AVAILABLE IN IRKUTSK AND NONE AT ALL WAS SEEN IN ULAN-UDE. PORK AND PORK FAT APPEARED TO BE GENERALLY AVAILABLE THOUGH VARYING IN QUANTITY AND QUALITY. CHICKEN WAS GENERALLY UNAVAILABLE THOUGH FOUND IN LIMITED QUANTITIES IN ONE STATE STORE IN ULAN-UDE. THERE WAS A VERY LIMITED SUPPLY OF EGGS IN IRKUTSK WITH SOMEWHAT BETTER AVAILABILITY IN ULAN-UDE. ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF BUTTER WERE NOTED THROUGHOUT. GOOD SUPPLIES OF BREADS AND BAKED GOODS WERE ALSO AVAILABLE IN BOTH CITIES. PLentiful SUPPLIES OF BOTH FRESH AND DRIED FISH WERE OBSERVED IN ALL STATE STORES. OBSERVATIONS USUALLY MADE IN MID-LATE MORNING. END SUMMARY.

2. IRKUTSK. STATE STORE ON RUSSISKAYA OFFERED A LIMITED SUPPLY OF PORK AT 3.05 K AND PORK FAT AND GOOD SUPPLY OF BUTTER AT 1.08 (300) AND .62 (200). NO BEEF, MUTTON, CHICKEN OR EGGS AVAILABLE. STATE STORE
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CORNER OF LENIN AND GORKIY HAD GOOD SUPPLIES OF BEEF FILET AT 5.30 K AND PORK AT 3.70 K. PORK FAT AND BUTTER ALSO AVAILABLE BUT NO MUTTON, CHICKEN OR EGGS. BREAD STORE ON LENIN STREET AND OTHERS CHECKED HAD GOOD SUPPLIES OF WHILE FIRST SORT AT .20 AND BROWN FIRST SORT AT MEDVARIETY OF BAKED GOODS FROM MPYAMWI. FRUIT AND VEGETABLE STORE 19 ON LENIN GENERALLY LIMITED SUPPLIES OF POOR QUALITY CARROTS (.14), POTATOES (.10), DRIED FRUIT (.80), BEETS (.10), APPLES (.70) AND LEMONS (.25 A PIECE). THE MARKET HAD LIMITED SUPPLIES OF SECOND QUALITY BEEF AT 3.30 K AND PORK AT 3.00 K AT MID-DAY. PORK FAT WAS IN GOOD SUPPLY AS WERE APPLES AND PEARS AT 4.00 K, POMEGRANATES AT 8.00 K, DRIED APRICOTS AT 3.50 K AND BEETS AT .12 K. LIMITED SUPPLIES OF CARROTS AT .14, RADISHES AT 2.00 AND LEMONS AT .15 A PIECE WERE NOTED. HIGH PRICES FRESH AND DRIED FRUITS WERE BEING HAWKED BY ENTREPRENEURS FROM THE CAUCASAS AND CENTRAL ASIA. LOCAL RESTAURANTS OFFERED CHICKEN, PORK AND BEEF DISHES BUT NO MUTTON. EXCELLENT DARK BREAD WAS SERVED WITH MEALS.

3. ULAN-UDE. STATE STORE 83 OFFERED NO MEAT, EGGS OR BUTTER AND HAD VERY LIMITED SUPPLY OF CHICKEN AT 3.40 K. GOOD SUPPLY OF FRESH AND DRIED FISH AVAILABLE. EXCELLENT AVAILABILITY OF: WHITE BREAD, FIRST SORT .28 AND .22, SECOND SORT .18; BROWN BREAD FIRST SORT .22, SECOND SORT .16 AND .15. STATE STORE 10 HAD LIMITED SUPPLY OF POOR PORK AT 3.70, SAUSAGE AND BUTTER, NO BEEF, MUTTON, CHICKEN OR EGGS OFFERED. AGAIN GOOD SUPPLIES OF WHITE BREAD FIRST SORT AT .28, BROWN BREAD FIRST SORT AT .22 AND SECON SORT AT .15. GOOD SUPPLY OF FRESH AND DRIED FISH. STATE STORE 29 OFFERED ONE COW'S HEAD AT 2.40 K AND LIMITED QUANTITIES OF POOR PORK AT 3.50 AND 3.70. GOOD SUPPLIES OF PORK FAT AND BUTTER AVAILABLE BUT ONLY LIMITED SUPPLY OF EGGS AT 1.30 FOR 10 AND LEMONS OFFERED AT .15 A PIECE. STATE STORE ON KIROV STREET HAD VERY LIMITED QUANTITIES OF POOR PORK AT 3.50 AND 3.70 AND SMALL GAME BIRD AT 3.60. GOOD SUPPLY OF PORK FAT BUT NO BEEF, MUTTON, CHICKEN, EGGS, OR BUTTER OFFERED. STATE STORE 13 OFFERED LIMITED SUPPLIES OF POOR BACON AT 3.60 AND PORK FAT AND BUTTER. NO BEEF, MUTTON, CHICKEN, OR EGGS OBSERVED. BREAD STORES 3 AND OTHERS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CHECKED HAD GOOD SUPPLIES OF WHITE BREAD FIRST SORT AT .28, BROWN BREAD FIRST SORT AT .15 AND VARIETY OF BAKED GOODS FROM .06-.24. THE MARKET OFFERED A LIMITED (THOUGH STILL SUBSTANTIAL) QUANTITY OF GOOD PORK AT 4.20 AND PORK FAT AT 3.00 TO LONG QUEUES OF SHOPPERS. HOWEVER NO BEEF, MUTTON OR POULTRY WAS (OR HAD BEEN RECENTLY) AVAILABLE. GOOD SUPPLIES OF EGGS AT 1.30 FOR 10 AND BUTTER WERE OBSERVED. AS WIDE ARRAY OF BAKED GOODS OF EXCELLENT

QUALITY WAS AVAILABLE AS WERE CABBAGE AT .14 AND DRIED AND FRESH
FRUITS FROM 2.00-4.00 K. LIMITED QUANTITIES OF BEETS
AT .12, POOR APPLES AT .70 AND LEMONS AT .25 A PIECE WERE
NOTED. LOCAL RESTAURANTS OFFERED PORK AND BEEF STEW DISHES
BUT NO MUTTON OR CHICKEN. SOMEWHAT SURPRISINGLY IN VIEW OF
GOOD QUALITY OF LOCAL SUPPLIES ONLY BROWN BREAD OF SECOND
SORT WAS SERVED.
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